MARVEL
20
LGY#185
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE TIE-IN
DONNY CATES
IBAN COELLO
ZÉ CARLOS
RAIN BEREDO
VENOM

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

YEARS AGO, THE OFFSPRING OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH THE SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY, CREATING VENOM'S GREATEST FOE: CARNAGE. BUT THE SYMBIOTE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A CHILD; EDDIE NOW HAS A SON NAMED DYLAN, WHO HAS JUST LEARNED THIS TRUTH ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EDDIE!

EVEN THOUGH EDDIE AND HIS ALLIES DEFEATED CARNAGE, EDDIE CHOSE TO SAVE HIS SON AT THE COST OF RELEASING KNULL FROM HIS SYMBIOTE PRISON.

KNULL IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO EARTH, AND THE MAKER HAS ESCAPED—BUT FOR NOW, EDDIE HAS ONLY ONE CONCERN: HIS SON.

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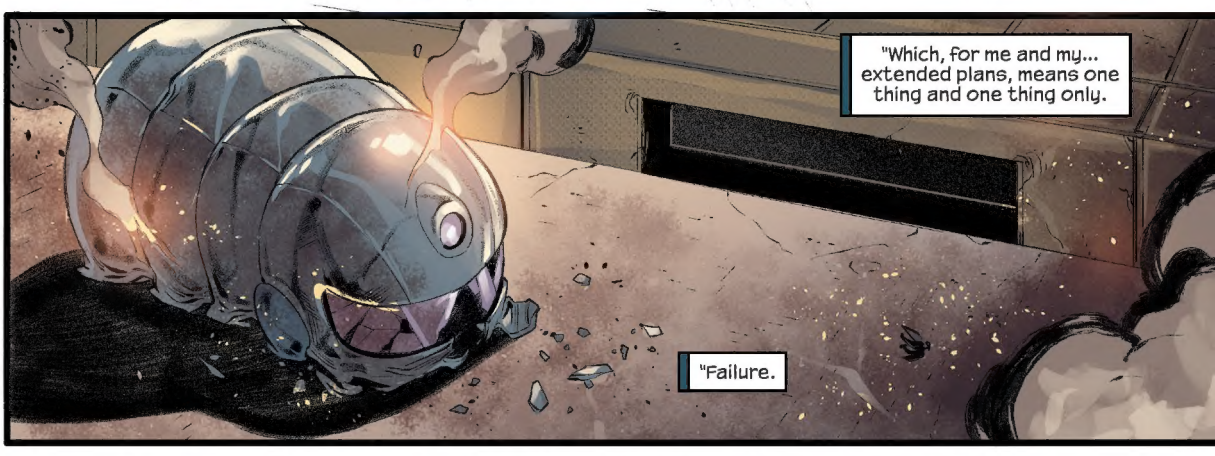

"OVERSIGHT"

PART TWO

"The monster known as *Carnage* is dead, along with the codex samples contained within him...

"...and the machine I created to obtain them.

"The codices I had hoped to farm for *Project Oversight* have been absorbed by *Venom*.

"A great loss, to be sure.

"But the event has not been without its... discoveries.

"Reviewing the remote security footage around the warehouse, I've discovered some rather..."

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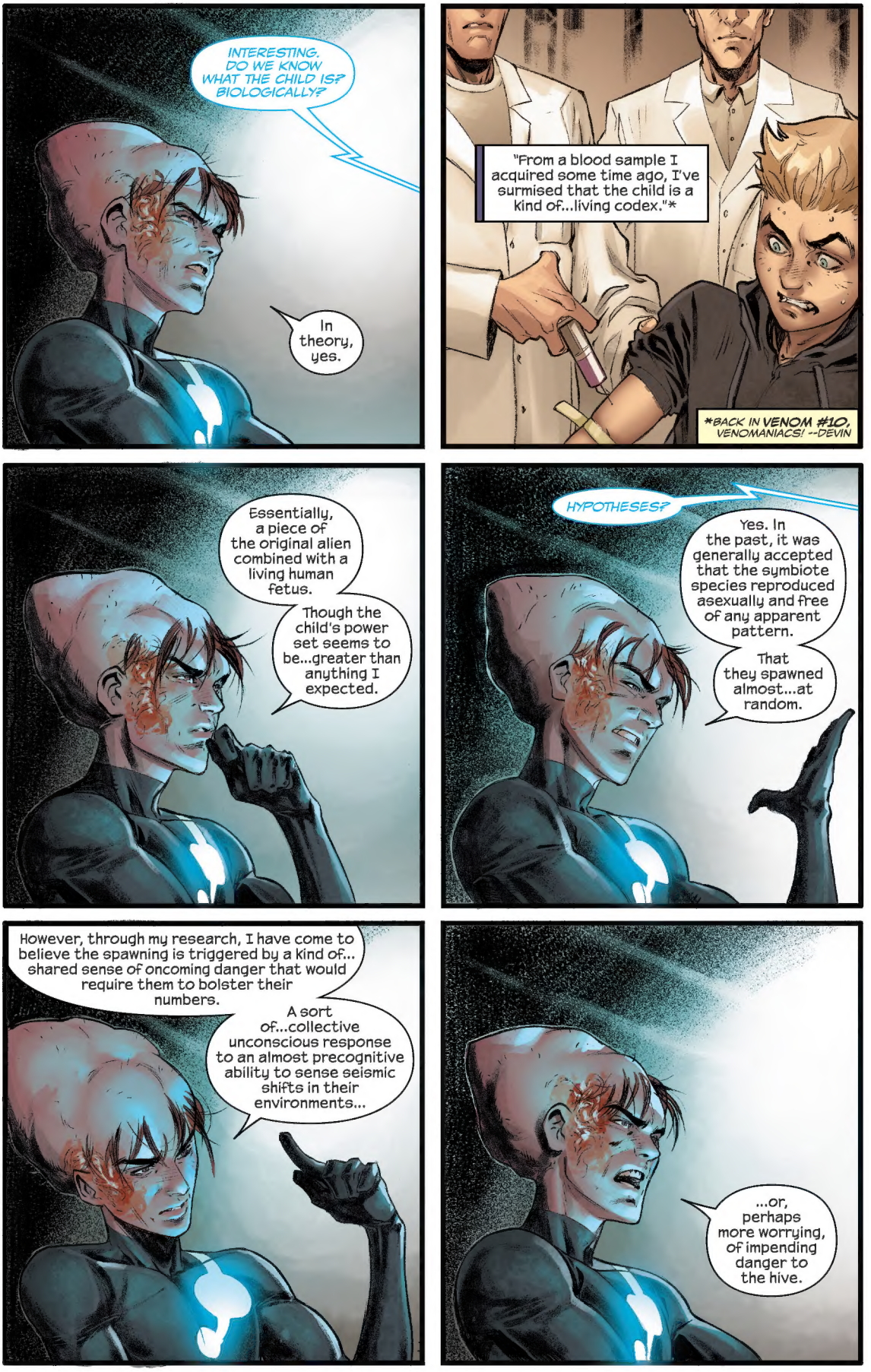
...interesting developments.
Dylan Brock...
...it would appear...
...merits further investigation.


INTERESTING. DO WE KNOW WHAT THE CHILD IS? BIOLOGICALLY?
In theory, yes.
"From a blood sample I acquired some time ago, I've surmised that the child is a kind of...living codex."*
*BACK IN VENOM #10, VENOMANIACS! --DEVIN
Essentially, a piece of the original alien combined with a living human fetus.
Though the child's power set seems to be...greater than anything I expected.
HYPOTHESES?
Yes. In the past, it was generally accepted that the symbiote species reproduced asexually and free of any apparent pattern.
That they spawned almost...at random.
However, through my research, I have come to believe the spawning is triggered by a kind of... shared sense of oncoming danger that would require them to bolster their numbers.
A sort of...collective unconscious response to an almost precognitive ability to sense seismic shifts in their environments...
...or, perhaps more worrying, of impending danger to the hive.

CONSIDER THE TIMING OF EACH SPAWNING.
JUST BEFORE THANOS BEGAN HIS REIGN AGAINST THE UNIVERSE IN SEARCH OF THE INFINITY STONES...
THE SYMBIOTE KNOWN AS CARNAGE WAS PRODUCED. ITS LAPSE INTO INSANITY A BI-PRODUCT OF IT'S UNFORTUNATE HOST, BUT THE TIMING HOLDS TRUE.
AND THEN WE HAVE TOXIN. BORN SHORTLY BEFORE THE AVENGERS DISSASSEMBLED, CRUMBLING THE WORLD INTO DARKNESS AND WAR.
THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR SCORN AND RAZE AS WELL. BOTH SPAWNED BEFORE CATACLYSMIC EVENTS.
SCORN BEFORE THE SO-CALLED CHAOS WAR. AND RAZE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE SECOND SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR.
AND THEN, OF COURSE WE HAVE SLEEPER. THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF VENOM.
WHO'S BIRTH I BELIEVE A DIRECT PRE-RESPONSE TO THE AWAKENING OF THE GRENDEL DRAGON...AND THE REBIRTH OF CLETUS KASADY.

INTERESTING. THOUGH, IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE VENOM SYMBIOTE WAS CUT OFF FROM ITS HIVE. AND EVEN IF IT WASN'T, NONE OF THESE THREATS WOULD DIRECTLY EFFECT THE SYMBIOTIC SPECIES....
Yes, that's true.
SO THEN, HOW DOES THIS CORRELATE TO THE CHILD?
Dylan Brock represents a vast leap forward in the defense capability of the symbiote species.
However, it is my contention that the Venom symbiote no longer considers itself a part of the symbiote collective.
But rather, a part of ours.
So... it begs the question, does it not?
What kind of danger are we in that the symbiote had to create Dylan Brock?
What is coming for us?

EVERYONE THINKS I'M A HERO.
BUT I'VE KILLED THIS WORLD.
KNULL IS FREE. HE'S AWAKE, AND HE'S HEADING TOWARD EARTH, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
BUT...I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LOSING MY SON OR LOSING THE WORLD, AND I...
...I MADE THE BEST CHOICE I'VE EVER MADE.
HEY, HEY, YOU AWAKE?
OH. YEAH...
YOU OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAD THIS DREAM, AND I...
UM, I NEED TO, UM...CHECK ON NORMIE AND--
HEY, IT'S OKAY. I GET IT. THIS IS WEIRD FOR ME TOO.
I'M OKAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE.
IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR ME TO GET MY HEAD AROUND...ALL OF THIS, AND I'M SURE YOU HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS, SO--
WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT ME?
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME WITH YOUR FATHER?
OH NO... NO, DYLAN, THAT'S NOT TRUE. I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T--
HE HURT ME. AND I COULDN'T...I COULDN'T MAKE HIM STOP, AND YOU--YOU JUST--
YOU PROTECT SO MANY PEOPLE BUT NOT ME, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU--

I PROTECT YOU.
FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER.
I PROMISE.

AND, WHATEVER YOU NEED FROM ME, I'M THERE, ALWAYS.
NO MORE SECRETS, OKAY?
NO MORE SECRETS.
OKAY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET OUT OF THIS STINKY WAREHOUSE AND GET SOME FOOD THOUGH, OKAY?
WE CAN TALK ALL ABOUT ALL OF THIS. WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW.
OR WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT ANY OF IT.
I...HAVE ONE THING...IF IT'S OKAY.
YEAH. ANYTHING.
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT MY MOTHER?

ABSOLUTELY.

NYPD

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So, as you can see...
...while I was not able to retrieve the symbiote codices that I required for my... research...
...I believe the boy merits a... closer eye.
INDEED.
HOWEVER, YOUR GOAL WAS NOT TO INVESTIGATE EDDIE BROCK OR HIS PROGENY.
WAS IT?
...No.
It was not.
WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH PROJECT OVERSIGHT?
Ah. Yes. That.
Let me show you.

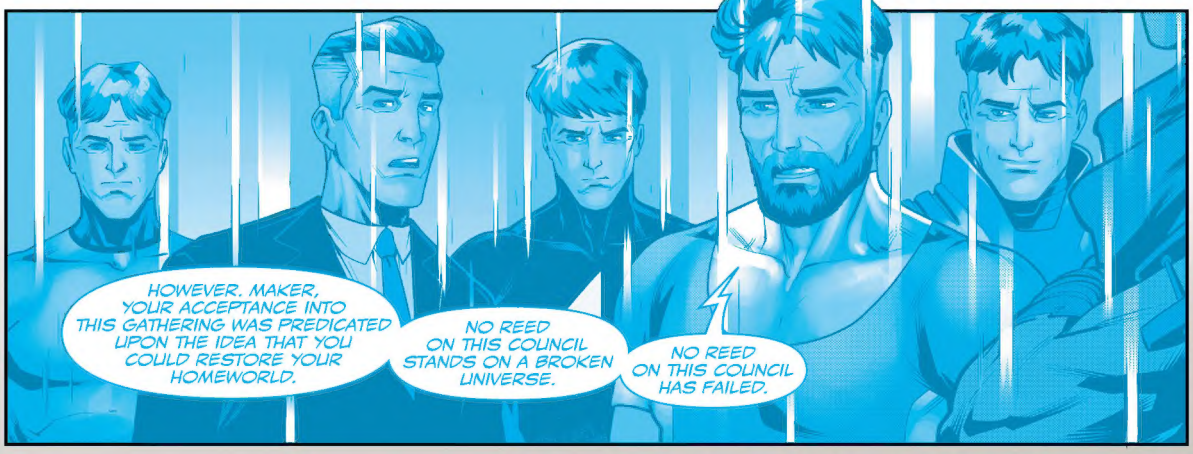
As some of you know, I have recently begun experiments to open a dimensional rift back to my original universe.
So far, I have failed.
It would seem the strain of multiple rift travels is...too much for the human mind and body.
Even for an individual such as myself.
However... in my last attempt...
...something came through.
And though severely damaged...

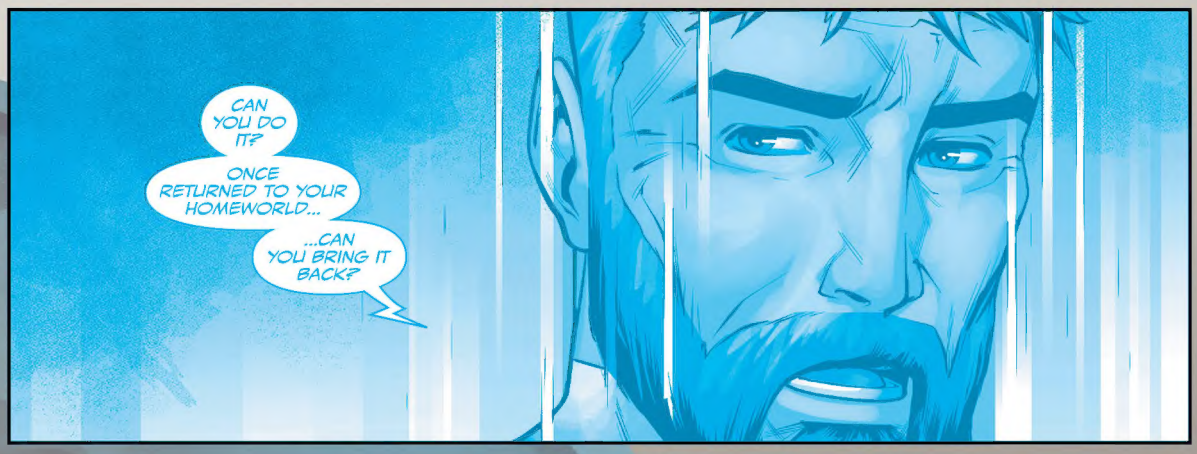
...the symbiote from my original universe is still very much intact.

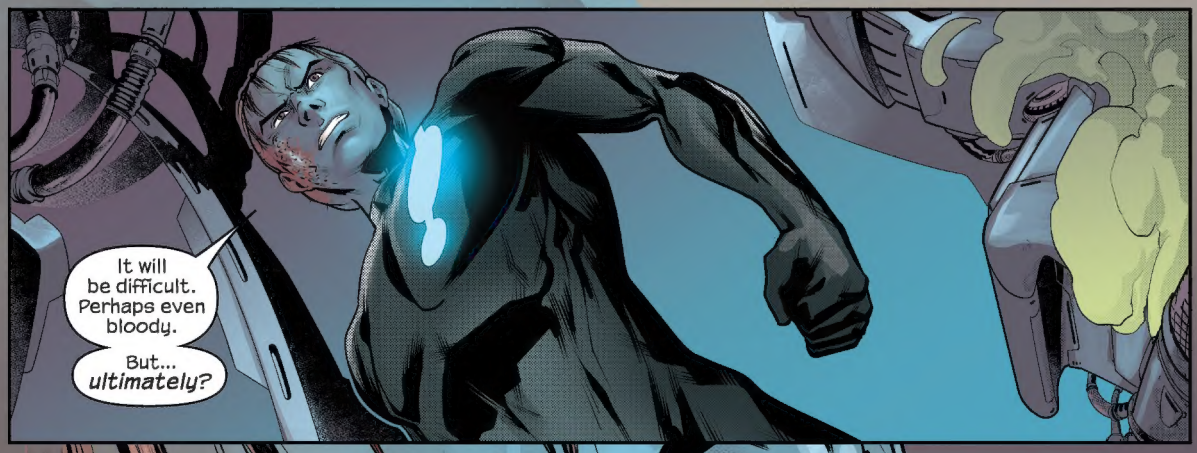
This is how my research began.
It appears that a synthetic one such as this, is fully capable of surviving a dimensional rift.
It's almost as if they were... designed for such travel.
I had hoped to repair this one using codices from this world's symbiotes...
...but it would appear I will need to... adjust those plans.
VERY INTERESTING.
AND ONCE YOU REPAIR IT...YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVERSE THE RIFT WITHOUT INJURY OR HARM TO YOUR PSYCHE?
I do. Yes.
VERY WELL...

...THIS COUNCIL APPROVES.

THE COUNCIL OF REEDS.


HOWEVER. MAKER, YOUR ACCEPTANCE INTO THIS GATHERING WAS PREDICATED UPON THE IDEA THAT YOU COULD RESTORE YOUR HOMEWORLD.
NO REED ON THIS COUNCIL STANDS ON A BROKEN UNIVERSE.
NO REED ON THIS COUNCIL HAS FAILED.


CAN YOU DO IT?
ONCE RETURNED TO YOUR HOMEWORLD...
...CAN YOU BRING IT BACK?


It will be difficult. Perhaps even bloody.
But... *ultimately?*

Yes.
TO BE CONTINUED!

CLETUS' Clubhouse

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AT LAST! ULTIMATE VENOM HAS FOUND ITS WAY TO THE MARVEL U!

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

AT LAST! After 29 issues, 580 pages and nearly 11 months of hard work ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is a wrap, and there's only one thing left to say—THANK YOU!

First and foremost, thank YOU! Yes, YOU! You and all the other readers out there in Mighty Marveldom who stuck with us through this crazy romp! Everyone here at Venom HQ worked double time to get this eviscerating epic in your hands, and we hope you enjoyed it!

Thanks also to symbiotic storytellers across the whole event! If you missed any of our tie-ins, be sure to snag 'em while they're still in stock at your local shop! We tried to make sure that every tie-in told a complete story, and you never know which issues we might have slipped a clue for the future of Venom into!

But enough plugging (for now!)—this is the final letter column of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, so let's not waste another minute and get to your letters!

Dear Carnage Cut-ups,
I am 64 and so I come late to appreciation of things horror.

My main touchstone, recently, has been Stephen King's history of horror, called Danse Macabre (1981).

Part of King's thesis is that the genre breaks down into three types: horror (monsters, etc.), terror (serial killers) and just the plain old gross-out.
Not surprisingly the series ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has all three aspects rolled into one cool narrative.

Carnage is visibly gross. Even without his powers you would still not want him to touch you!

He's as gross a creature as they come!

And horror? Where do I have to explain that Carnage brings it all to "monster horror"?

In all of Marvel's 5,200 characters Carnage is the one most likely to invoke horror.

Finally, Carnage represents terror. He is as much a serial killer as Hannibal Lector.

His very presence on the page makes the reader recoil. In terror, I might add.

So congrats to all the writers working on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE—Spencer, Ewing, Tieri, Cates et al.

Horror, terror and the gross-out.

With ABSOLUTE CARNAGE you have hit a "Kingian" home run!

Rabbi Steven Lebow
Temple Kol Emeth
Marietta, GA

Thanks so much, Rabbi! That's some high praise, likening our little funny book to the work of one of the most prolific horror authors of all time, but we're more than happy to take it!

To everyone at Cletus' Clubhouse,
First off, I just want to say that I have read all but one ABSOLUTE CARNAGE issue that is out and I love it! I must have read the first issue around five times! Other than the first issue, I just want to point out some of the other issues I really enjoyed.
The first issue I would like to point out is ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2; I just love how Miles and the piece of symbiote he's infected with are fighting for control over his body and how, just like in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK, it shows what it might look like when you are bonded with a symbiote and how different it is when you're forced to wear one instead of willing choosing to bond with it.

The second issue I want to point out (so far) is ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1; I just loved reading the first DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE series so I was very excited to read this! It also is probably the only tie-in that will still have humor in it and that's what I love about Deadpool...and that he is, according to Carnage, a "unicorn" which makes sense and is also hilarious. The final thing I liked about the issue is how Carnage just straight up says, "I just really hate that guy."

My third and final issue has got to be ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2. I was quite excited to see this character again and I am really excited to see if Scream will face off against Carnage! Now THAT is what I'm waiting for.

Lastly, I just wanted to thank the whole team writing these comics and I will try my best to collect them all!

#CarnageRules
Best Regards,
Sean from Minneapolis

Thanks so much for writing and being such a devoted Venomaniac, Sean! It always means a lot to everyone involved in the books to hear from readers like you, who read each and every week—it lets us know that we're doin' something right! We've (clearly) got some crazy stuff in the works for the symbiotes of the Marvel Universe; hope you like where we're headed!

Hey ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
I just read my copy of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3, and oh my days, it was amazing. I was shocked to see the Hulk bond with the symbiote and I also can't believe he's never worn one before. Also the tie-in issues fit perfectly in place, explaining the unknown gap of other characters between issues. Overall it was INCREDIBLE. One question though: How long have you been building to this point?

Sincerely,
Nicholas R.

Hi, Nicholas! Thanks so much for your letter! Glad you didn't see the Hulk twist coming. Man, that reveal was TRICKY to keep secret. Glad it worked out!

We get that question a lot, about how long we've been building to this story, and the shortest answer is that we've been headed here since the very beginning of Donny's run. The bones of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE were in the very first pitch Donny ever sent my way, so everything we've been doing—not only in VENOM, but in our supporting series like WEB OF VENOM, as well—has been building to this story...and the next one, so keep reading!

To the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE team that is doing my favorite book, SCREAM!
Loving the story and the amazing art, oh and did I mention the art? It's breathtaking and I love the characters from SCREAM and am loving the story. Scream has real spunk and flair and is not afraid to hold her ground. Congrats to all, I am on board.

Longtime Marvel reader for close to 50 years,
Damien A.
Millfield, Australia

Oh, man! A letter all the way from Australia! Thanks so much for reading and for writing, Damien! Scream is one of my favorite characters too and, just wait, we've got BIG plans for the Daughter of Venom!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
I just wanted to thank you for giving us this incredible event. I've been reading comics since Christmas, but this series got me more into comics. The artwork is just so clean and gorgeous and it really fits the tone of the entire series. Right now, I have ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3 that I'm about to read and I can't wait to see what will happen next after them. I'm certainly looking forward to how the series will end, so keep up the good work!

J. Silva

And we hope we ended with style, J.! Thanks for your letter!

Dear Cletus' Clubhouse,
I've just finished issue ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4. Wow!!!

Donny Cates is absolutely smashing it with the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE series—I'm hooked! I loved how they've branched it off and tied in other characters.

I loved Spidey growing up and the symbiotes. Venom is my favorite character in the Marvel Universe, but the truth is there would be no Venom without Carnage. I'm loving this series and when issue #5 concludes...there's gonna be Carnage!

From Tom H.

Tom H.?

TOM H.?!

I can't believe it—we've gotten a letter from SPIDER-MAN himself. The one and only Tom Holland, cleverly hiding his identity from us by only using his last initial. Thought he could pull a fast one on us, but NOT THIS TIME, Spidey! HAH!

Hey, while you're here, can I have your autograph? Also are you going to be in the sequel to VEN—what's that?
Hold on a moment, reader.
...
...

WELL.

I've just been informed by Danny that this is not actually a letter from noted MCU film actor and story spoiler Tom Holland, so I feel foolish. I'm sorry for the case of mistaken identity, Tom, and for those of you keeping score at home, the tally is:

Party Pooper Danny: 1. Tom Holland
Superfan Devin: 0

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Crew,
I know that I've said before that ABSOLUTE CARNAGE was awesome from the very first issue, but #4 just blew my mind. This story just gets better and better and it shows no sign of going downhill. The artwork with all the red also sets the tone for the comic very well.
This last issue has gone from hope, to lack thereof, to hope again. I've written Carnage fanfic stories, but this is taking my expectations to a whole new level. This has been a great Marvel event these past couple months, and I cannot wait until the final issue comes out. You guys haven't let me down, so I know you guys will not disappoint.

Sincerely,
Philip O.

Thanks for reading, Philip! Hoping our grand finale lived up to your expectations!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
When I first started reading this series, I was absolutely blown away by those epic moments and the epic art styles. I love how Donny Cates is treating Eddie and Cletus as characters so far. I want to see more of Eddie and his son's relationship. They were one of the best things about this series. But anyways, just finished reading issue #3, and once again I'm blown away by those epic moments (especially at the end!) The series have been so awesome, and the characters are handled really well so far. I can't wait to see what else you guys have in store for us for the next issue. Donny Cates is a BEAST.

Kazi

Dear Venomized Marvel Editors and Staff,
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is the most crazy, metal and insane Carnage story so far. This story definitely makes me worry about Eddie and those Codex users because Cletus as a Venomized god is scary to think about.

Luckily, the symbiote took over the Hulk (yeah, that was super crazy!) so let's hope Venomized Hulk did some damage.

Thank you all for bring this story to us Venom fans! This definitely helps me get thru the stress of college coursework. Keep it coming and never forget: We are Venom!

Tyler. O
Winona, MN

Hah! I've said it before, Tyler: Comics have always been one of the best things around for when I'm trying to deal with stress! I'm so glad to hear that they're helping you the same way they helped me, even if it's for a short escape to a world full of symbiotes and celestials for a few minutes.

Hi,
My name is Pedro, I am 13 years old and I've been a Marvel fan since I saw the first Iron Man movie. But when I started searching for more Marvel characters, I found Carnage and I immediately liked him. His look, his story... I really don't know why, but let's keep going.

A year ago I found a Spider-Man comic at my local mall and really enjoyed it but did not buy more. When I found out that Carnage was getting a new comics series I thought, "Maybe it's a good way to really get into the Marvel Comics world."

Let me tell you, I've finished reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 and every time I finish an issue I think the art is amazing, the story is amazing and I really need to get the next issue—and fast!

So after this long message I just wanna say, thanks for the great storyline and for giving me a great time!

Fan from Portugal,
Pedro C.

This is one of my favorite letters yet, Pedro! Nothing makes any of us here at the House of Ideas happier than when we learn that the stories we work on each and every month have introduced someone new to comic books! Thanks so much for giving ABSOLUTE CARNAGE a chance, and I hope you'll stick with us through what's next.

That's going to be it for this one, Venomaniacs—but don't worry! Our next issue, VENOM #21, goes on-sale on 12.26.19! And, believe me when I say, you won't want to miss it.

Viva Venom Island!
Devin

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